Newsletter n.3

Dear Reader,

In the previous newsletters we introduced the Use Cases (UCs) and the technology developed in ANITA. Now, we report some of the main **dissemination activities performed during the latest months** and share an interesting **contribute of VIAS Institute on image tagging**. These events have generated a significant interest on the project activities and expected outcomes adding new members in the ANITA User Community.

SIRIUS Project Conference

On the 24th of October ANITA was presented by Engineering Ingegneria Informatica Spa and CERTH in the context of the SIRIUS Project Conference, organised by EUROPOL at their headquarters in Den Haag (Netherlands). After the general overview of the project objectives a demo session was organised to present to the participants, mainly Law Enforcement Agency representatives, the current version of the ANITA platform equipped with the already available tools and services for image, video and text analysis. Many practitioners have expressed their interest in following the future project activities, including the training sessions planned in the second half of the project.

Crossing Boarders 2019 congress

Even on the 31st of October ANITA was presented at the annual Crossing Boarders 2019 congress, organized by the Dutch national police in the Fabrique in Utrecht.

Mediterranean Security Event 2019

ANITA project has participated as co-organiser to the Mediterranean Security Event 2019 (MSE2019) hold in Crete on the 29th – 30th and 31st of October. Project activities and outcomes have been presented by the Project Coordinator (Ernesto La Mattina – Engineering Ingegneria Informatica Spa) during the specific work session dedicated to Fight Against Crime and Terrorism (FCT) projects.

Many end-users have visited the booth to discuss with the Dissemination Manager (Filippo Nardelli – Expert System) and the Project Coordinator more details about the functionalities offered by the ANITA solutions.

Security Research Event 2019

Engineering Ingegneria Informatica Spa and CERTH represented ANITA in the Security Research Event 2019, co-organised by the European Commission and the Ministry of the Interior in Finland on the 6-7 November 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. In the context of the conference, Vito Morreale, Director of the Industry and Security Technologies, Research and Innovation (IS3) laboratory at ENGINEERING Ingegneria Informatica Spa, participated in the panel on *Artificial Intelligence: Capacities Needed to Increase Security in Europe.*

An updated list with all dissemination activities is available here: https://www.anita-project.eu/events.html

Machine learning is a human thing

During this Anita project it is showed how machine learning and artificial intelligence only happens when humans take the lead. Even more: learning a machine how to interpret pictures needs very long and intense human working hours.

For the Anita project software and machine learning tools are build to explore the deep and dark web. Anita aims to target terrorism, drugs and weapons trafficking. For that matter our tool need to learn how it can detect pictures related to those topics. Therefore it needs examples: lots of examples. In total 58.716 pictures were collected on the deep web and used to train the software (by "web crawling"). 58.716 pictures… and only then the real work could start. Because all those pictures needed to be labelled … twice.

First we labeled the context of a picture. For every picture our software was explained where the picture was taken and what kind of a scene is displayed on the picture. For example: our partners labeled pictures to be "outside" or "inside" and if the "outside" was in a scenery full of mountains or at a beach. But at the same time the system was explained if the whole picture was showing a fight, or a group hug, or a party, …

*After this process every picture was labeled a second time. This time partners needed to point out where specific content was to be found. Every time a gun, drugs, money, … but also text or name tags were showed it needed to a label. Only in this way the Anita tool will be able to recognize every kind of gun or weapon. Once the tool is up and running it will be able to work completely independent. But it will of course only find what was instructed and has learned by humans. Those humans spend hours and hours behind a computer to do so. And so we can decide: **machine learning tools (such as Anita) are very independent and intelligent, but it still is a human thing**.*

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